



# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN MAY 1999

U.S. mine production of iron ore in May 1999 was 13% higher than that of April 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased by 2% and mine stocks decreased by 5%.

Consumption and trade data for May 1999 will be included in a subsequent issue.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1998:				
May	5,506	24,637	6,508	19,683
June	5,636	30,273	6,302	25,986
July	5,433	35,706	6,392	32,378
August	5,839	41,545	6,297	38,674
September	5,384	46,929	5,613	44,288
October	5,279	52,208	5,626	49,913
November	5,113	57,321	5,707	55,621
December	5,269	62,591	5,733	61,354
1999:				
January	4,891	4,891	2,181	2,181
February	4,587	9,479	900	3,081
March	5,145	14,624	2,619	5,699
April	4,846	19,470	6,265	11,965
May	5,473	24,943	6,117	18,082

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN MAY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1,350	1,184	1,360	1,371	4,652	2,836
Minnesota	4,123	4,322	4,757	5,137	8,218	6,860
Total 4/	5,473	5,506	6,117	6,508	12,870	9,696

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1998:					
April	2,221	1,054	100	10	3,386
May	2,327	1,585	102	12	4,026
June	2,734	932	119	8	3,793
July	2,562	922	--	6	3,490
August	2,299	946	--	8	3,253
September	1,709	1,187	--	11	2,907
October	1,747	1,379	--	9	3,135
November	1,215	1,418	--	13	2,645
December	1,651	923	--	8	2,583
Year total	21,628	13,232	651	110	35,621
1999:					
January	569	1,674	--	8	2,251
February	459	528	--	6	992
March	455	642	--	5	1,101
April	1,485	1,236	--	7	2,727

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	April		January-April	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,570	4,735	18,115	20,324
Canadian ores	457	536	1,839	2,179
Foreign ores	456	573	1,809	2,130
Total 1/	5,484	5,845	21,764	24,634
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	4,952	5,254	19,647	22,284
Steel furnaces	6	5	22	23
Agglomerating plants 2/	525	582	2,092	2,313
Miscellaneous 3/	--	4	2	14
Total 1/	5,484	5,845	21,764	24,634
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	April 30			
	1999	1998		
Furnace yards	12,335	11,932		
Receiving/transfer docks	2,435	2,616		
Total consumer	14,770	14,549		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	April		January-April	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,771	4,173	14,826	17,123
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	32	38	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

3/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES, BY COUNTRY  
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1998		1999			
	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	February	March	April
Canada	1,482	1,817	500	242	121	796
Mexico	(1/)	1	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Other	2	2	8	2	3	1
Total 2/	1,484	1,820	509	245	124	797
Pellets	1,450	1,808	495	242	116	795
Other	34	13	13	3	8	2
Total 2/	1,484	1,820	509	245	124	797

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES,  
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	1999					1998
	April		January-April			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	64	582	274	3,755	13.70	206
Brazil	505	12,657	1,427	34,375	24.09	1,898
Canada	559	17,914	947	29,251	30.89	1,661
Finland	--	--	3	152	50.67	4
Mexico	1	15	3	54	18.00	4
Peru	39	558	39	574	14.72	95
Spain	--	--	(2/)	43	250.55	--
Venezuela	58	5,028	160	10,441	65.26	476
Other	73	2,310	73	2,310	31.64	163
Total 3/	1,299	39,065	2,928	80,954	27.65 4/	4,506
Concentrates	26	415	131	2,112	16.12	49
Coarse ores	146	4,888	146	4,888	33.48	178
Fine ores	244	4,241	1,271	26,195	20.61	970
Pellets	670	22,023	1,058	35,865	33.90	3,056
Briquettes	58	5,028	93	8,089	86.98	61
Other agglomerates	156	2,456	226	3,583	15.85	188
Roasted pyrites	(2/)	13	3	222	74.00	4
Total 3/	1,299	39,065	2,928	80,954	27.65 4/	4,506

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND AGGLOMERATES IN APRIL 1999  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 1/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Australia	--	--	--	--	64	--	64
Brazil	--	73	244	162	26	--	505
Canada	26	--	--	508	25	--	559
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Peru	--	--	--	--	39	--	39
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	58	--	58
Other	--	73	--	--	--	(2/)	73
Total 1/	26	146	244	670	214	(2/)	1,299

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	1999					1998
	April		January-April			January-April
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	162	4,944	324	10,855	33.50	1,239
Canada	508	17,079	666	22,658	34.02	1,515
Venezuela	--	--	67	2,352	35.10	198
Other	--	--	--	--	--	103
Total 2/	670	22,023	1,058	35,865	33.90 3/	3,056

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE AND  
AGGLOMERATES, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	April	January-April	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	387	1,128	1,211
Buffalo, NY (09)	(1/)	(1/)	11
Charleston, SC (16)	54	79	100
Chicago, IL (39)	80	185	182
Cleveland, OH (41)	52	52	161
Detroit, MI (38)	75	75	328
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	26	23
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(1/)	(1/)
Miami, FL (52)	--	--	(1/)
Mobile, AL (19)	135	202	1,169
New Orleans, LA (20)	516	1,174	1,220
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	3	4
Ogdensburg, NJ (07)	--	--	(1/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	3	97
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	--	(1/)
Total 2/	1,299	2,928	4,506

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	April	January-April	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	215	348	487
Charleston, SC (16)	27	52	100
Chicago, IL (39)	54	54	133
Cleveland, OH (41)	26	26	134
Detroit, MI (38)	75	75	328
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	26	23
Mobile, AL (19)	135	202	991
New Orleans, LA (20)	138	274	766
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	94
San Francisco, CA (28)	--	--	(1/)
Total 2/	670	1,058	3,056

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.